

Joel M. Zylstra, PE

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Joel Zylstra has twenty years of experience in solid waste management. Joel has worked the last eighteen years at Granger III & Associates. Headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, Granger is a comprehensive solid waste management organization. Granger owns and operates two landfills in Michigan, a large hauling operation, a recycling processing facility, a composting operation, and numerous landfill gas utilization projects.

Granger pioneered the first Michigan landfill gas-to-energy project in 1985 with the direct involvement of Joel. Based upon this project's achievements since then, the Granger Electric team pursued and successfully developed twelve more landfill gas utilization projects across the nation. Joel helped negotiate 35-year contracts with a Michigan utility at each of its six electrical generating facilities as well as with the customers involved in Granger's out-of-state direct-use pipeline projects.

As Chief Executive Officer of Granger Energy, Joel has led the efforts to set precedence in states where Granger projects are developed. He has shown competence and a deep understanding of the issues with regard to landfill methane gas in the courts of Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. His knowledge and reasoning have been well-received and precedence has been set in all three states allowing a landfill gas developer to serve multiple customers without being considered a utility.

In the State of Indiana, the Granger – Southside Landfill team jointly developed a project with Rolls-Royce where landfill gas fuels two jet engine manufacturing plants, a greenhouse and an asphalt manufacturer. This project received national attention for its contribution in protecting the environment and was given the EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) prestigious "Industry Ally of the Year" Award in 2001.

Most recently, Joel has been focusing his time on building Granger's largest project yet – a 12.77-mile methane gas pipeline in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Considered to be one of the most complex landfill gas utilization projects developed to date, this pipeline travels through two counties, multiple townships, and encompasses over 75 easements and right-of-ways. Because of Granger's successful ruling from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Granger has been granted permission to serve up to four industrial customers with the recovered gas from the Lanchester Landfill. This project will be the first in the State to serve multiple customers – it will indeed set the standard for future gas-to-energy projects.

Joel received his B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has also taken many post-graduate studies classes at Michigan State University and Northwestern University.

Joel is registered with the State of Michigan as a Professional Engineer. He is also a member of both the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), and the EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program.